

REMARKS

On September 10, 2004, the Examiner issued a Notice of Allowance for the above-identified case, with the Issue Fee due December 10, 2004. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted with a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") in order to continue prosecution of the enclosed amended and new claims. This Preliminary Amendment and RCE is submitted before that due date and accordingly, no Petition or Fee for Extension of time are believed necessary. However, in the event that the Commissioner determines that an extension of time is necessary, the undersigned hereby petitions for the required extension of time, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge any require fee to the Milbank Deposit account 13-3250.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-2, 11-12, 24, 26 and 29-34 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Please amend claims 3-7, 10, 13-17, 20-23, 25, 27, 28, 35 and 36 as indicated above. Please add new claims 37 - 47. Claims 3-10, 13-23, 25, 27-28 and 35-47 are now pending in the application. Claims 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 35 and 36 are independent claims.

II. Request for Allowance

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

PATENT
Docket No.: 36409-01000

Respectfully submitted,
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP



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